

2003 Report of Accomplishments

Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD)



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 – Summary

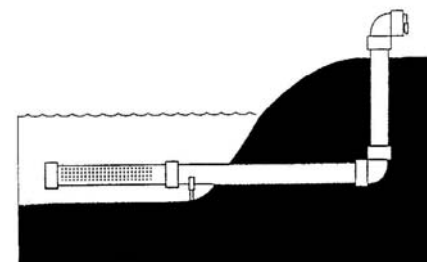
Mission of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

The mission of the Pend Oreille Conservation District is to work in cooperation with private landowners to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources in Pend Oreille County. This mission will be accomplished with education, on the ground projects, and assessment of local natural resource concerns. The Conservation District will foster community involvement in natural resource issues and cooperation between private landowners, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private business.



Forestry

- POCD's "Tree Sale" was a great success selling 90,000+ trees in April. In June, we assisted the US Forest Service with distributing 50,000 "FREE" Trees. For a total of over 130,000 trees, being planted this year.
- Pend Oreille County is the first and only county in the State of Washington to install "Dry Hydrants"; a device to allow the siphoning of water from a surface water source year-round for fire fighting. POCD and our local NRCS Soil Conservationist, Mark Simpson have done what it took to install three of these Dry Hydrants and are searching for grants to install even more.



Wildlife and Recreation

- POCD assisted WDFW, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, and other groups in the trap and transport of wild turkeys to help preserve and protect their habitat.
- Mark Simpson, NRCS, has processed and submitted nearly 1000 acres from multiple landowners for NRCS's Wetland Reserve Program consideration.
- The County's retailers selling hunting and fishing license received over 3500 plastic covers for the licenses depicting the local salmonids. The goal was to bring awareness to identifying Bull Trout. POCD also handed out more than 2000 Bull Trout tattoos showing a picture of a Bull Trout and the slogan "No Black Put It Back".



Water Quality

Four water quality projects were implemented:

- Livestock exclusion fencing of approximately 13 acres of wetland and forested wildlife habitat in addition to a two-acre pond. This was Phase II of a hardened crossing.
- As Phase I for another landowner, POCD cost shared on 1000 feet of livestock exclusion/riparian fencing.
- Cost share was given on reseeding of old skid trail roads to reduce erosion and sediment transportation to an important stream.
- The last project was to repair a "Sand Boil" on a dike holding back the Pend Oreille River. For more information, read the Pend Oreille Implementation Non-point Treatment (POINT) Grant # 03-38-IM-01.



- *POCD is currently working a grant with DOE titled: "Pend Oreille Watershed Ranking" (POWR). We are collecting water quantity and quality data on 16 watersheds requiring 114 visits a year. Water Quality samples are taken to a local High School Lab who because of this grant became certified by DOE to do the testing. Through this grant, POCD has put over \$30,000 into this High School's budget.*

Range and Cattle, Agricultural Crop Production

- *At the closing of the year of this annual plan, a landowner whose property borders USFS grazing permit land contacted us for help. Cattle continually enter his land and devastate three small springs and a portion of the Little Muddy Creek. POCD has contacted the USFS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Kalispel Tribe of Indian's Natural Resource Department to partner on a livestock exclusion fence. This project's cost share would come from our current Commission Grant.*

Watershed Planning

- *POCD is the "Lead Entity" for watershed planning in Water Resource Inventory Area 62 (Pend Oreille River). The Planning Unit is wrapping up Phase II of the Plan while a consultant is preparing the Phase III final report for signatures.*

Salmonid (Bull Trout) Recovery

- *As "lead Entity" for this process, POCD co-sponsored a grant with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians to conduct fish barrier surveys in WRIA 62. The Kalispel's will use this information to do fish surveys above and below each barrier.*

Information & Education

- *POCD is the leader in Pend Oreille County when it comes to natural resource, conservation and environmental education. This years annual events for K-12 reached over 500 County students and more from Idaho and Canada who have no events to attend pertaining to the Pend Oreille River Watershed.*
- *This year, a new event was started for the County's 7th Graders. It's called "Dump No Waste" Stenciling program. POCD staff conducts in-class lessons on surface runoff and how contaminants can pollute our water. Students stencil all storm water drains in town, and hand out flyers to pedestrians.*
- *Also new this year, was FireWise and Fire Prevention Training. FireWise training includes "Defendable Space" between your home and forestlands. A grant for cost share on implementing these practices has been applied for through DNR. Fire Prevention training included not only meeting Smokey, but touring the EDITH House (Exit Drills In The Home) a training model of a home on fire to teach kids what to do should they find themselves in this situation. POCD believes this type of training is extremely important with close to 70% of the land in Pend Oreille County being USFS lands and most of the County's residents live in rural areas with only volunteer fire departments to render aid.*



Remember: Pend Oreille County was the last county created in the State, but it's the only county in the shape of the number 1.

Washington Conservation Districts
Assisting land managers with their conservation choices